

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

- 1) Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 10 in its entirety:

~~Fig. 27C is a side view of the distal end portion of the curved shaft of Fig. 27B in the absence of the introducer device;~~

- 2) Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 63, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

The presence of first and second curves, 924, 926 provides a pre-defined bias in shaft 902. In addition, in one embodiment shaft distal end portion 902a is designed such that at least one of first and second curves 924, 926 are compressed to some extent as shaft distal end portion 902a is retracted into the lumen of needle 928. Accordingly, the angle of at least one of curves 924, 926 may be changed when distal end portion 902a is advanced out through the distal opening of introducer needle 928, as compared with the corresponding angle when shaft distal end portion is completely retracted within introducer needle 928. **~~For example, Fig. 27C shows shaft 902 of Fig. 27B free from introducer needle 928, wherein first and second curves 924, 926 are allowed to adopt their natural or uncompressed angles ∇' and \exists' , respectively, wherein \exists' is typically equal to or greater than \exists . Angle ∇' may be greater than, equal to, or less than angle ∇ . Angle \exists' is subtended by inter-curve portion 925 and proximal portion 901. When shaft distal end portion 902a is unrestrained by introducer needle 928, proximal portion 901 approximates the longitudinal axis of shaft 902. Angle ∇' is subtended between linear distal portion 909 and a line drawn parallel to proximal portion 901. Electrode head 911 is omitted from Fig. 27C for the sake of clarity.~~**